

## USEFULNESS OF TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR INPUT DEALERS

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### ABSTRACT

*Agri-input dealers play a vital role in guaranteeing that farming communities have access to some of the essential and critical agricultural input that contribute in boosting the agricultural productivity. Besides this, they also contribute towards strengthening the Agricultural Extension System by providing valuable agro-advisory services to the farmers. It is essential that they are equipped with latest scientific know how through refresher training courses. The present study was conducted at Sardar Smruti Kendra, Directorate of Extension Education, Anand Agricultural University, Anand. Out of thirty items which reflects the usefulness of training, Information related to the Effect of weather on plant growth and plant development ranked at first with a mean score 2.95, Information related to the license of selling of pesticide ranked at second with a mean score 2.85, Information related to i-khedut, agricultural universities, agriculture and allied departments website at third with a mean score (2.77), Information related to Soil analysis (2.73), Benefits of green manuring in soil (2.69), Information related to micro-irrigation and Information related to the effect of climatic change on crop pest and disease both at the same mean score (2.68), Method of soil sample taking (2.64), Information related to the importance of soil moisture(2.63), Information related to a deficiency of micronutrient in agriculture (2.61). Information related to the problem of pesticide residues and its solution, Method of vermicompost preparation and its benefits, Information relating to rules and regulation of seed Act with the same mean score (2.58).*

**Keywords:** *input dealers, atraining programme, usefulness*

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy since 1960 when this sector was in a humble state. Agricultural research and extension are two important factors for agricultural development. An efficient extension system capable of timely dissemination of need-based farm technology among farming communities is of paramount importance for achieving sustained growth in agriculture. The system of transfer of technology from research stations to the farming community has played a crucial role in modernizing agriculture. Farmers now required adopting a wider range of inputs and practices and developing skills for their more efficient use. Keeping this in mind, the policy framework for agriculture extension outlined by the task force on Agriculture Extension, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI recognized the role of multi-agency dispensation comprising different strengths. It was also recognized that the policy environment will have to promote private extension to operate in roles that complement, supplement, work in partnership and even substitute for a public extension. The training has to be systematic and a regular event, on a normative basis for

all concerned, to keep everybody up to date and equipped for a leap forward on the agricultural front. Indeed an input dealer forms an important bridge between the farmers and the agriculture developmental agencies, and is often regarded by the farmers as a “friend, philosopher and guide” and is truly a change agent. Therefore, if he is trained and sincere in his dealings with the farmers, he could definitely prove to be a valuable resource to contribute towards the goal of last-mile delivery in the field of agriculture.

Agri-Input Dealers in the country are a prime source of farm information to the farming community, besides the supply of inputs and credit. However, the majority of these dealers do not have formal agricultural education. Therefore, proper training of agriculture input dealers on a normative basis could go along way in transforming Indian agriculture from subsistence to business activity.

### OBJECTIVES

To know the usefulness of training programme for input dealers

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted at Sardar Smruti Kendra, Directorate of Extension Education, Anand Agricultural University, Anand. The random sampling method was used for the selection of 120 Input Dealers who were trained under the Input Dealer training programme by Sardar Smruti Kendra, Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Anand.

The interview method of inquiry was used for data collection. The data was collected through a well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The instrument of data collection was the interview schedule which was prepared in accordance with the objectives selected. The interview schedule was prepared in Gujarati. After tabulation, statistically, tools like percentage, mean, arbitrary method for categorization was used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Usefulness of training programme for input dealers

Table 1 : Usefulness of training as perceived by input dealers

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Mean score	Rank
<b>(A) Importance of weather in agriculture</b>			
1	Information related to the Effect of weather on plant growth and plant development	2.95	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Information related to benefits of weather forecasting	2.68	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	Information related to the effect of climatic change on crop pest and disease	2.65	7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(B) Soil and soil health</b>			
4	Information related to the importance of soil moisture	2.63	9 <sup>th</sup>
5	Method of soil sample taking	2.64	8 <sup>th</sup>
6	Information related to Soil analysis	2.73	4 <sup>th</sup>
7	Information related to organic farming and its benefits	2.53	13 <sup>th</sup>
8	Soil nutrient management	2.44	18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(C) Integrated Nutrient Management</b>			
9	Benefits of green manuring in soil	2.69	5 <sup>th</sup>
10	Information related to a deficiency of micronutrient in agriculture	2.61	10 <sup>th</sup>
11	Information related to using liquid biofertilizer and their benefits	2.38	21 <sup>th</sup>
12	Method of vermicompost preparation and its benefits	2.58	11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(D) Integrated Disease Management</b>			
13	Information related to Integrated Disease Management in different crops	2.52	14 <sup>th</sup>
14	Information related to the identification of different weeds and their control	2.55	12 <sup>th</sup>
15	Use of biocontrol	2.43	19 <sup>th</sup>
16	Information related to pheromone trap and light trap	2.24	
17	Information related to the problem of pesticide residues and its solution	2.58	11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(E) Crop production, post-harvest and mechanization in agriculture</b>			
18	Scientific farming system of forage crops	2.18	
19	Importance of Aromatic and medicinal crops and their seed production	2.29	22 <sup>nd</sup>
20	Skillful farming practices of vegetable crops and seed production techniques of important vegetable crops	2.29	22 <sup>nd</sup>
21	Information related to new technology in agriculture	2.47	17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(F) Irrigation management</b>			
22	Information related to micro-irrigation	2.68	6 <sup>th</sup>
23	Management and care of fertigation and micro-irrigation system equipment's	2.40	20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(G) Agriculture-related Rules and Acts</b>			
24	Information related to rules and regulation of the seed Act	2.58	11 <sup>th</sup>
25	Information related to the license of selling of pesticide	2.85	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>(H) Crop, crop insurance and Information Technology</b>			
26	Possibilities about export in horticulture crops (farming/ vegetables/ fruits/ flowers crops)	2.13	23 <sup>th</sup>

Sr. No.	Particulars	Mean score	Rank
27	Information related to crop insurance scheme	2.51	15 <sup>th</sup>
28	Information related to Assistance Schemes of the agriculture department	2.48	16 <sup>th</sup>
29	Information related to Assistance Schemes of the horticulture department	2.48	16 <sup>th</sup>
30	Information related to i-khedut, agricultural universities, agriculture and allied departments website	2.77	3 <sup>rd</sup>

In Table 1 data shows that Out of thirty items which reflects the usefulness of training, Information related to the Effect of weather on plant growth and plant development ranked at first with a mean score 2.95, Information related to the license of selling of pesticide ranked at second with mean score 2.85, Information related to I-khedut, agricultural universities, agriculture and allied departments website at third with a mean score (2.77), Information related to Soil analysis (2.73), Benefits of green manuring in soil (2.69), Information related to micro-irrigation and Information related to the effect of climatic change on crop pest and disease both at the same mean score (2.68), Method of soil sample taking (2.64), Information related to the importance of soil moisture(2.63), Information related to a deficiency of micronutrient in agriculture (2.61). Information related to problem of pesticide residues and its solution, Method of vermicompost preparation and its benefits, Information relate to rules and regulation of seed Act with same mean score (2.58), Information related to identification of different weeds and its control (2.55), Information related to organic farming and its benefits (2.53), Information related to Integrated Disease Management in different crops (2.52), Information related to crop insurance scheme (2.51), Information related to Assistance Schemes of agriculture department and Information related to Assistance Schemes of horticulture department both at same ranked with mean score ( 2.48), Information related to new technology in agriculture (2.47), Soil nutrient management (2.44), Use of bio control (2.43), Management and care of fertigation and micro (2.40), Information related to use of liquid bio fertilizer and their benefits (2.38), Importance of Aromatic and medicinal crops and their seed production and Skillful farming practices of vegetables crops and seed production techniques of important vegetables crops both stand at same ranked with mean score (2.29) and Possibilities about export in horticulture crops (2.13).

### CONCLUSION

Agri-Input Dealers in the country are a prime source of farm information to the farming community, besides the supply of inputs and credit. from the above discussion, it can be concluded as majority areas of the usefulness of training programme for input dealers were: Information related to the Effect of weather on plant growth and plant development, Information related to I-khedut, agricultural universities, agriculture and allied departments website Information related to the license of selling of pesticide, Information related to Soil analysis and Benefits of green manuring in soil.

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